Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A method for determining an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) or pre-IBD phenotype of a test cell from a given tissue ~~**diagnosing inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) in a subject**~~, said method comprising:

(a) determining an expression level of at least one gene product in said test cell ~~**a sample from said subject**~~, wherein said gene product is an mRNA of a gene selected from the group consisting of macrophage inflammatory protein-2β (GRO3), neutrophil lipocalin (HNL), elastase specific inhibitor (elafin), and type VI collagen α3 chain (COL6A3); and

(b) comparing the expression level of said gene product in said test cell ~~**subject**~~ to an expression level of said gene product in a control cell of the given tissue type ~~**healthy subject**~~,

wherein a difference in the expression level of said gene product indicates that said test cell has an IBD or pre-IBD phenotype ~~**subject has IBD or is at risk of developing IBD**~~.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim **42**, wherein said IBD is ulcerative colitis (UC).

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim **42**, wherein said IBD is Crohn's disease (CD).

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim **42**, comprising distinguishing between UC and CD.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim **42**, wherein the expression level of said gene product differs by at least a factor of two.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim **42**, wherein said test cell ~~sample~~ is obtained from a needle biopsy core, a surgical resection sample, a bowel sample, lymph node tissue, or serum.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim **42**, wherein the expression level of said gene product is determined using Northern blot analysis, reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction, in situ hybridization, or an array.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim **48**, wherein said array comprises nucleic acid probes that specifically hybridize to said gene product and a substrate to which said nucleic acid probes are bound.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim **49**, wherein said substrate is selected from the group consisting of paper, membranes, filters, chips, pins, and glass.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim **49**, wherein said nucleic acid probes are bound to said substrate by covalent bonds or hydrophobic interactions.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim **49**, wherein said nucleic acid probes are spotted onto said substrate in a two-dimensional matrix or array.